

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-4 and 8-15 are in the application. The Abstract and claims 1 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to claim 1 for an informality. Applicant has corrected this. The Examiner objected to the Abstract. Applicant submits herewith a new abstract. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over GB 2,334,347 in view of Brogger et al and further in view of Ridinger. Claim 3 was rejected over the references of claim 1 and further in view of Mead et al. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected over the references of claim 1 and further in view of Stevens. Claim 6 is rejected over the references of claim 1 and further in view of Meloy. Claim 13 is rejected over the references of claim 1 and further in view of Wamprecht et al. Claims 14-15 are rejected over the references of claim 1 and further in view of Gee et al. Applicant respectfully traverses.

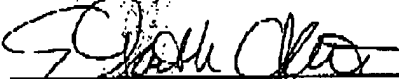
Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the invention, and to recite that the substrate is a plastic layer with a metal

layer that is evaporated by laser action to form digits to mark the micro particles.

GB 2334347 teaches the basic process for forming micro particles, but does not teach laser etching. Combining this reference with Brogger and Ridinger would not lead to the present invention because one of skill in the art would not be motivated by any of these references, alone or in combination to perform the process as claimed in amended claim 1, which teaches evaporating the metal layer from the substrate to create digits that mark the microparticles.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-4 and 8-15 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
MICHAEL CLEARY - 1



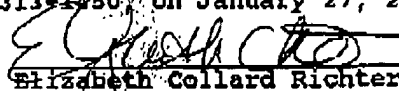
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 27, 2004.

  
Elizabeth Collard Richter

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of producing batches of micro particles includes the following steps:

- a) affixing a substrate sheet to a support;
- b) cutting the substrate sheet by means of a laser device to define a plurality of micro particles;
- c) either before, after or during the cutting of the substrate sheet, marking the region of the substrate sheet defining each micro particle by means of a laser device with a code or other identifying marking, said code or other identifying marking being unique to that particular batch of micro particles to uniquely identify that batch; and
- d) removing the micro particles from the support by means of a solvent.

Preferably a single laser device is used for cutting the substrate sheet and marking the micro particles. Alternatively, separate laser devices may be used for respectively cutting the substrate sheet and marking the micro particles.